

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the present application as amended.

Claims 1-6, 12-15, 17-20, 24, 31-35 and 39-47 are pending in the application.

Claims 39-42 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Publication 2003/0009705 ("Thelander") in view of U.S. Publication 2003/0085621 ("Potega").

Claim 43 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thelander in view of Potega, and further in view of US Patent 5,600,841 ("Culbert").

Claims 1-6, 12-15, 17-20, 24, 31-35 are allowed.

Claims 44 and 47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 39-41 have been canceled.

Claim 42 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 47.

Claims 48-50 have been added.

Applicant submits that since amended claim 42 includes all of the limitations of claim 47, which the Office has stated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim, that amended claim 42 is allowable over Thelander, Potega, and Culbert under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

It is submitted that since claims 43-46 are dependent on claim 42, that claims 43-46 are also patentable over Thelander, Potega, and Culbert under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

New claim 48 includes the limitations of claims 43 and 44. Applicant submits that since new claim 48 includes all of the limitations of claim 44, which the Office has stated would be

allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim, that claim 48 is allowable over Thelander, Portega, and Culbert under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

It is submitted that since claims 49-50 are dependent on claim 48, that claims 49-50 are also patentable over Thelander, Portega, and Culbert under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

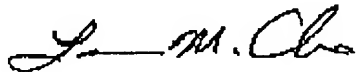
In view of the amendments made to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the applicable rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6, 12-15, 17-20, 24, 31-35, 42-46, and 48-50 should be found to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (217-377-2500) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-4238.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 9, 2008



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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 9th day of January, 2008.



Christine Hartness